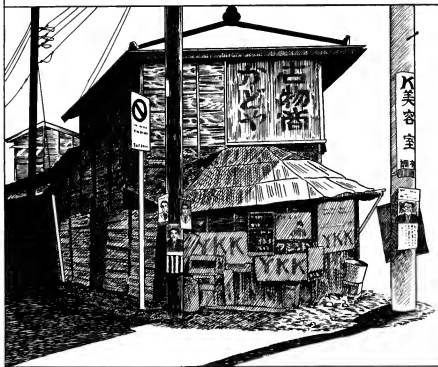


Walking Days



"Sanpo no Hibi" by Yoshiharu Tsuge, originally published in *Comic Baku*, June 1984



I WENT
SWIMMING
AT THE
PUBLIC
POOL THIS
MORNING,
AS USUAL.



WORK HAS
DRIED UP
LATELY,
SO I HAVE
TIME TO
SPARE.



THE COMICS
I DRAW ARE
RAATHER PLAIN,
SO IT'S NOT A
SURPRISE THAT
NO OFFERS
ARE COMING
MY WAY.

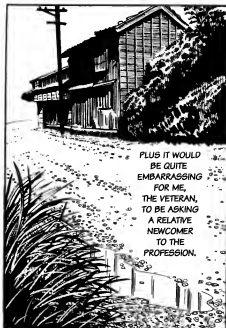


H— IS A POPULAR AUTHOR.
I WAS THINKING THAT IF I RAN
INTO HIM, I COULD ASK IF HE
COULD POSSIBLY FIND ME
SOME WORK. BUT I HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM EVEN ONCE.



ON THE WAY BACK FROM
THE POOL, I PASS BY H—'S
HOUSE. I DON'T NEED TO
GO THIS WAY TO GET
HOME, BUT I TAKE THIS
ROUTE ON THE OFF
CHANCE I'LL SEE HIM.

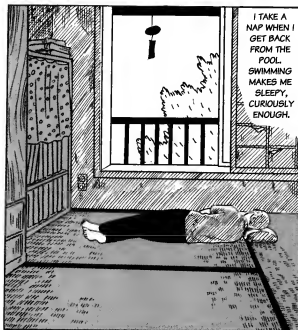




PLUS IT WOULD
BE QUITE
EMBARRASSING
FOR ME,
THE VETERAN,
TO BE ASKING
A RELATIVE
NEWCOMER
TO THE
PROFESSION.



I MET H— ABOUT
A YEAR AGO,
AND WE WEREN'T
THAT CLOSE,
SO CALLING ON
HIM TO ASK FOR
WORK WOULD BE
AWKWARD.



I TAKE A
NAP WHEN I
GET BACK
FROM THE
POOL.
SWIMMING
MAKES ME
SLEEPY,
CURIOUSLY
ENOUGH.





AT TIMES
LIKE THIS,
I FEEL
VERY MUCH
AT PEACE.



YESTER-
DAY I
WANDERED
OVER TO
G-
TEMPLE,
FOLLOW-
ING THE
RIVER.
IT WAS
A SEVEN
KILO-
METER
WALK.

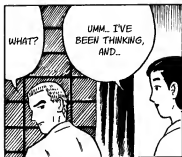


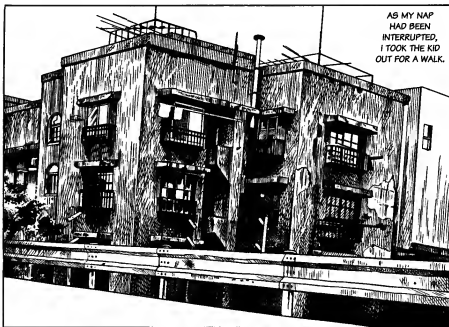
I THINK ABOUT
WHERE TO TAKE A
STROLL TODAY.



I HAVE A
LOT OF FREE
TIME, SO I
DO A LOT OF
WALKING.



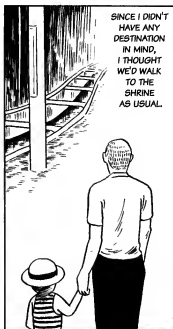




AS MY NAP
HAD BEEN
INTERRUPTED,
I TOOK THE KID
OUT FOR A WALK.



I WANNA
WIDE A
TWAIN!



SINCE I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
DESTINATION
IN MIND,
I THOUGHT
WE'D WALK
TO THE
SHRINE
AS USUAL.

EVERY SO OFTEN,
THE THOUGHT OF
HEADING OUT OF
THE CITY WOULD
CROSS MY MIND—



IT WASN'T
THAT I
WAS ON AN
ALLOWANCE.
I ONLY
HAD THIS
MUCH.



I HAD GOTTEN
USED TO NOT
SPENDING MONEY,
SO I DIDN'T
FEEL LIKE THIS
WAS A HARDSHIP.



BUT THERE
WAS ONLY
THREE
HUNDRED
YEN IN MY
POCKET,
HARDLY
ENOUGH
FOR AN
OUTING.



I HARDLY VISITED CAFÉS, THOUGH.
IF I WENT IN, THAT WOULD BE IT.
BUT IF I HELD BACK, I WOULD
ALWAYS LEAVE THE POSSIBILITY
OPEN.



WITH THREE
HUNDRED YEN,
I DIDN'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT
RUNNING OUT OF
CIGARETTES.
I COULD ALSO
GO TO A CAFÉ
ONCE IN A WHILE.

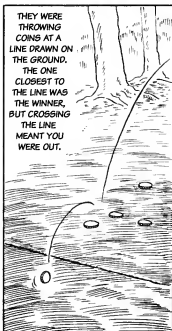
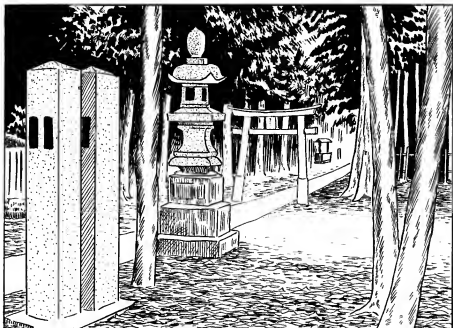


I COULD HOLD
ONTO THAT
POSSIBILITY FOR
ONE OR TWO
MONTHS.

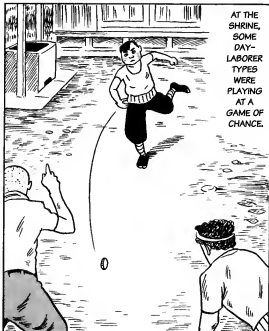


WHEN USED IN
THIS WAY,
A MERE THREE
HUNDRED YEN
FEELS LIKE A
LOT OF MONEY.

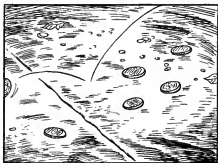
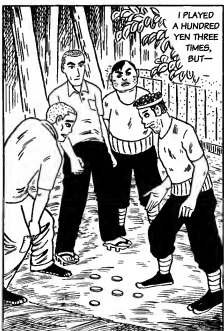
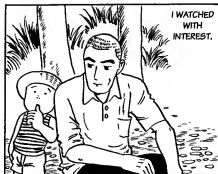
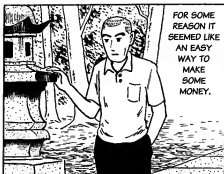


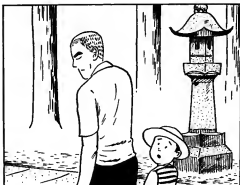


THEY WERE
THROWING
COINS AT A
LINE DRAWN ON
THE GROUND.
THE ONE
CLOSEST TO
THE LINE WAS
THE WINNER,
BUT CROSSING
THE LINE
MEANT YOU
WERE OUT.



AT THE
SHRINE,
SOME
DAY-
LABORER
TYPES
WERE
PLAYING
AT A
GAME OF
CHANCE.

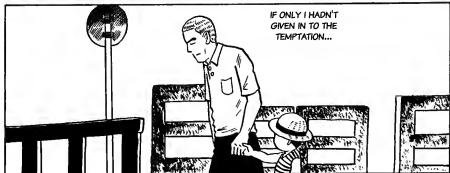




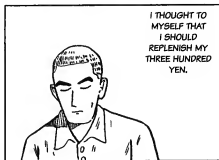
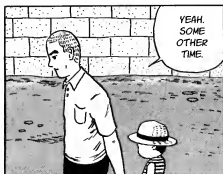
I LOST ALL
TOO EASILY.



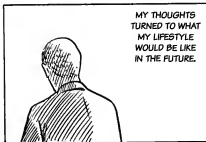
WITH THE
LOSS OF THREE
HUNDRED YEN,
AN AWFUL FEELING
OF DESOLATION
QUICKLY SETTLED
OVER ME.

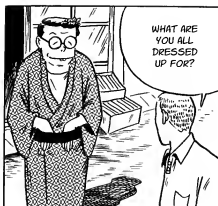
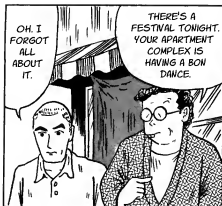


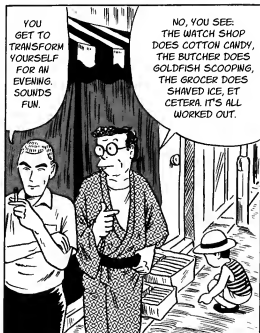
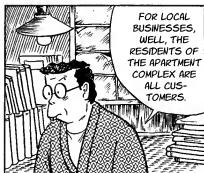
IF ONLY I HADN'T
GIVEN IN TO THE
TEMPTATION...

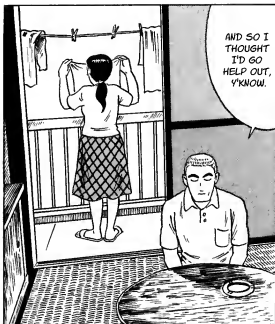


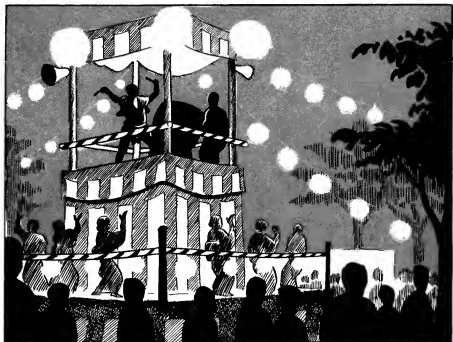
WE PAY
HIGH
PRICES
FOR
YOUR
USED
BOOKS



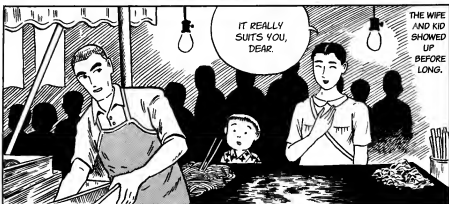


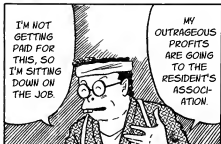
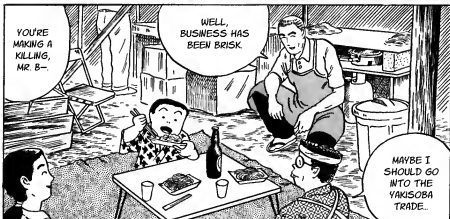














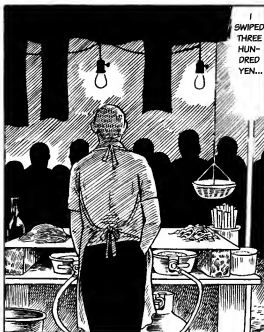
FROM THIS BUILDING,
FROM THAT BUILDING,
COME JOIN IN

ALL IN THE COMPLEX
ARE GATHERED AS ONE

OUR HEARTS
ARE ALSO
GATHERED

GATHERED,
WE ARE
GATHERED

WE'LL CLOSE THE EVENING WITH
THE APARTMENT SONG



I
SWIPED
THREE
HUND-
RED
YEN...



FROM THE
PROCEEDS,